

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS




FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

It was quite a day working DX at the Young Eagles Day at Sonoma Skypark. Eileen, San, Alan, San , Dave and I set up a station using the club radio and the R-7 antenna.

We made 16 QSO's, all DX, 13 different countries and all on 10 or 12 meters. Conditions couldn't be better.

Let me know if you need a name tag.

We will use this month's meeting to get things going for hamfest.

See you there.

—73, Jim, K6UUW

NEXT MEETING

March 19, 7:30pm

City of Sonoma EOC

Topic: Prepare for Hamfest

Minutes January 19, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:37ish PM by our esteemed President, Jim Hill, K6UUW

Members present at the meeting were:

K6UUW, (Jim), KD6FIL (Dave), KI6JNU (Moe), NJ6E (Stan), KG6GLO (Ron), N7PIB (San), KJ6QIQ (Scott), KA2QQO (Declan), KF6FZM (Dick), NU6X (Dan), KI6FFM (Dean), W1EJ (Ed), K6KLL (Alan), N6KM (Ken), K6ITE (George)

Guests: AG6V (Donna), AG6OW (Linda)

Minutes from the January meeting were approved with no corrections!!!

Correction to the Newsletter for the frequency on Mt Tam, 147.330 on Big Rock has become 146.700 with the same PL as the old frequency

Report from officers:

President: No updates. Hamfest is coming up..

Treasurer: We currently have \$2349.57 dollars in the bank. Dues are due and we have received \$280 in dues and KI6QIQ and K6ITE paid at the meeting.

ACS: We still need net control operators for May, June and August. There is a Level 1 training scheduled for April 5th. Any ACS member who has not taken this training in the last year must take it April 5th to remain active in ACS.

Secretary: I got skipped, but I did not have any news anyway.

Website: Need to update the VE Session Dates. They are Hamfest on April 26 and September 27.

Training: 6 students attended the last session. They are working on an amplifier project

Old Business

Net Control for VOMARC Wednesday Night Net: We need net control operators for June, July, August and September for the VOMARC net.

Radio Replacement: This is a continuing discussion on the FT950 display issue limiting

the use of the radio. The radios that are being looked at are the Kenwood TS590, the Yaesu FT1200 and the Icom IC7200. It was decided to do more research on the radios. Check the QST reviews and the ratings on the Sherwood website.

Young Eagles: Young Eagles was washed out on February 9. The next one is on March 9..

New Business

VE Session: VE Sessions need to get an updated list to Eileen to post on the website..

N6P: This is the Point Reyes Lighthouse on the Air event on August 16 and 17. Does anyone want to take this over?

Hamfest: The Hamfest is on April 26. Jason is going to do a demonstration on his helicopters.

The next meeting is March 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

—Respectfully submitted, Dave KD6FIL

Feature: A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

World War II began in September 1939 as a European war, just as World War I had. Suddenly 121 of the 250 countries on the DXCC list were off the air. At that point, the US was pursuing a course of neutrality, so American hams were allowed to remain on the air. The ARRL soon issued its own code of neutrality, which resulted in the federal government's appreciative support of Amateur Radio.

Canada, along with Britain and most of the British Commonwealth, immediately shut down ham radio, however. This created an odd situation: The US (and the ARRL), following their policies of neutrality, had to treat Canada as a belligerent; no mention of Canadian Amateur Radio appeared in QST until May 1941, when QST began publishing the column "The Month in Canada." It is noteworthy that, of the 3380 Canadian hams then licensed, half were in uniform by 1941, some 900 as officers.

In those early war years, before the US entered the fray, some interesting things happened. The state of the radio art had reached the point that long-haul DX could be worked even with modest, low-cost stations. The Byrd Antarctic expeditions put KC4USA, KC4USB, and KC4USC on the air.

Experimenters began to tinker with wideband FM at the upper end of 5 meters (58.5 to 60 MHz). The FCC revamped its amateur exams, eliminating essay questions (and the requirement that applicants draw schematic diagrams) and replacing them with a multiple-choice test. Exams could then be graded immediately at the examination point, sparing the applicant weeks of anxiety.

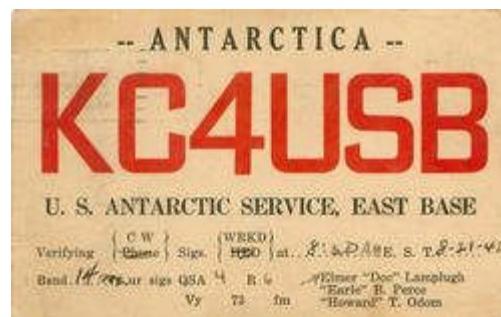
At the 1940 meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors, George Bailey, W1KH, was elected League president.

In June 1940, World War II hit American hams harder, when the federal government prohibited US hams from contacting hams outside the country. The FCC also prohibited all mobile and portable operation below 56 MHz, with the notable exception of Field Day! At the League's request, this policy was soon modified to allow Amateur Radio Emergency Corps drills during daylight hours on weekends, and to allow true emergency communication at any time.

To be continued.

(from ARRL newsletter)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW



A 1940 QSL card from KC4USB in Antarctica. [Courtesy of the Tom Gentry, W5RG, collection]

Public Service Events 2014

Seems like a great time to set up the calendar and consider participating in Public Service Event. Here's the list as it stands today:

Event	Date	Supporter	Comm Boss
Lake Sonoma 50	12 April 2014	SCRA	K6XLT
Wine Country Century	3 May 2014	SCRA	K6XLT
MS Walk	4 May 2014	SCRA	KI6MSP
Human Race	10 May 2014	SCRA	KI6MSP
Terrible Two	21 June	SCRA	K6XLT
Mendo Rally	26-27 July	Independent	KG6JSL
Tour d'Organics	10 August	SCRA	
Annadel XC	16 August	Independent	
PCAM	20-21 Sept	SCRA	
Waves to Wine	20-21 Sept	SCRA	
Levi's Gran Fondo	4 October	SCRA	K6XLT
JOTA	18 October	SCRA	KG6PEP

As I receive info on other public service events, I'll get them posted. Public Service events are open to all and we look forward to your participation. —Craig K6XLT, SCRA Public Service Wrangler

ARRL membership: Is 25% asking too much?

—by Dan KB6NU

In the March 2014 issue of QST, ARRL CEO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, makes a big deal of the fact that ARRL membership is now up to 162,200 members and is growing at a rate of about 1% per year. After patting the ARRL on the back about this, WJ1B launches into a discussion of the different programs that WJ1B feels have contributed to the membership growth.

Let's take another look at the numbers, though. As the editorial points out, 10,300 ARRL members are international members, meaning that 151,900 U.S. hams are ARRL members. Another article in the March issue, "New Licenses," notes that the total number of licensed radio amateurs at the end of 2013 was 717,201. If you do the math, you'll find that only slightly more than one in five licensed radio amateurs are ARRL members. I personally don't think that's so hot, and it's certainly not worthy of all the self-congratulation going on in this editorial.

The licensing article also points out that "the amateur radio population in the US grew by

slightly more than 1 percent last year." That being the case, ARRL membership has grown at about the same rate. If all the programs noted in WJ1B's editorial were so effective, wouldn't you expect membership growth to be at least 2%?

I've said this before, and I'll say it again. I think the ARRL should set a goal to enroll at least 25% of licensed radio amateur as members. I think that this is achievable, and it seems to me that any group calling itself "the national organization for amateur radio" should have at least one in four amateur radio licensees as part of its membership.

What do you think? Is reaching 25% asking too much? If you think I'm right, please reach out to your ARRL division director and tell him so. More members would mean that the ARRL could deliver more services and have more clout in Washington. That sounds like a good thing to me.

When he's not worrying about ARRL membership, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands, teaching amateur radio classes, and building kits. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com.

Milestones: UC Berkeley Amateur Radio Club Celebrates its Centennial

The Amateur Radio club at the University of California, Berkeley ([W6BB](#)) is joining ARRL in celebrating its centennial this year. For those who are members of the club today, the magic of Amateur Radio has not worn off.

(from ARRL newsletter)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

Message from the Treasurer:

Please note that the Family Membership rate applies **ONLY** to family members residing at the same address.

—Eileen KG6QNT

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A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Frank Wiebusch, KD6KVL—Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:
Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

c/o Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

**2014 ACS
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	SCOTT	KI6QIQ
APRIL		
MAY	GEORGE	K6ITE
JUNE		
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2014 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	WIEJ
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER		
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 19, 2014, 7:30 PM AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC, 175
1ST ST W, AT THE SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT.
SEE YOU THERE.**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2014 Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org. QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.